

Hawaiian Gazette

EST. 1838 IN REBUS.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1887.

[EDITORIAL.]

Hawaiians are not deprived of any rights under the Constitution of Kalakaua. Political mountebanks who are seeking to cultivate a contrary belief in the native mind are challenged to show any ground for that assumption. The paramount right of the Hawaiian, one he may legitimately claim of the foreigner who has introduced the institutions of self government here, is the right of having the affairs of his country administered wisely and well. His only real grievance, as against the foreign element, is where the stranger assumes power only to abuse it. This assertion of course comprehends the proposition that the right use of power involves giving native Hawaiians a share in the working and the emoluments of every branch of public service where they prove their competence. Hawaiians have no right to rule further than they do so to the equal benefit of all classes and conditions of their own people and of foreigners who are here developing the resources of the country. At the present juncture foreigners assumed the reins to save the nation's honor and independence, when both were in imminent danger from the ruinous courses of a combined set of foreign adventurers and unprincipled native politicians. The foreigners, moreover, who are now at the head of affairs are all men who have become so completely identified with the country and its interests as to give them equal claims to power with sons of the soil. There is a new Constitution and a new Ministry, both the creation of a desperate crisis in national affairs, and the principles contained in the one and represented by the other must stand, or falling, the Kingdom's independence will be involved in the catastrophe.

Whatever may be the result of the ensuing elections, all classes of people should know that Hawaii must have government reform established. There is no going back on the movement recently inaugurated. The eyes of the world have been drawn to Hawaii by the events of June and July as never before. By the course pursued in the crisis by their representatives, the Great Powers who take an interest in the country virtually occurred in a mandate for the establishment of political reforms in this Kingdom. The tone of the American press—particularly that of Washington, New York and San Francisco—in commenting upon our revolution, was approbatory, almost, in some cases, to an enthusiastic degree. There was one very significant feature of the American discussions, however, which should cause reflection to those people here who, from motives that it is impossible to believe laudable, are already in motion endeavoring to undo the work that culminated in a new Constitution on the 7th of July. The American writers on the Hawaiian situation all tacitly assume that unless this Kingdom is conducted properly, it cannot retain its independence for any length of time. This assumption is manifest in the determination unanimously expressed in all the leading journals, that the Islands shall not be allowed to fall a prize to any European Power. It is held that the United States has the first claim to possession of this point of vantage in the Pacific, whenever the people of these Islands show that they cannot govern themselves. The administration of affairs under the last Ministry became a scandal before the world, and the Powers having subjects here will not be passive observers of any repetition of such rule. Hawaiians may be told by mischief makers now that their rights are subverted in the new Constitution, but every intelligent and fair-minded man among them must recognize that their true friends are the authors and upholders of the new regime.

Reformers have a serious duty before them between now and election day, in the way of conveying a correct view of affairs to the native electorate. There are evil-disposed foreigners at work among them, stimulating race prejudice to defeat reform, if possible. Hawaiians must be shown that, if a considerable proportion of them find the privilege of voting for Nobles above their reach, the discrimination is not one of race but of condition, and affects all nationalities alike, according to their standing in point of wealth. Advocates of universal suffrage may put forward what specious arguments of human equality they please, but it stands to reason the necessity of government lies as much in property rights as in anything else. Life and property are the two principal wards of organized government, as they are the only stakes men have to pledge in defense of established order. It is therefore folly to contend that property by itself has no claim to special recognition in a system of government. Another thing to be kept before Hawaiians is that the very privileges said to be unequally bestowed are now divided among thousands of the people, whereas under the old arrangement much greater privileges of the same kind were wielded by an individual or a clique, often if not most frequently of foreign blood into the bargain. The privilege of creating the upper branch of the Legislature was greater in that the appointments were for life. Selfish wire-pullers and crafty courtiers, swaying the royal prerogative, then filled up vacancies as they occurred, where now the whole people

who come up to a not very high grade of wealth, are vested with the creation of the whole House of Nobles. Then there is to be met the complaint that the native race is humiliated by the King being shorn of a large amount of his former prerogative. If Hawaiians only knew it, their King occupies a much more dignified position under the new than under the old Constitution. Those who know part of the secret of certain changes of Ministry under the former regime, will acknowledge the truth of the proposition just advanced. Now the royal prerogative is only to be exercised under the advice of the King's Ministers, who are responsible to the people and depend upon them for their tenure of position. Under the old system the Ministers were only nominally responsible, and it was possible for unscrupulous adventurers to gain such control over the King as to sway the destinies of the nation at their will. It was the power behind the throne which, during the past many years, was the source of a great deal, if not most, of the mis-government and rascality that nearly produced national extinction to Hawaii. At all events, the fiat has gone forth that this Kingdom is henceforth to be a constitutional monarchy if it is to retain the privilege of self government. Nothing less will satisfy the freemen who have set their stakes here, and the Great Powers that take a kindly interest in the nation's welfare acquiesce in the decree. Hawaiians who profess to pine after the romance of feudalistic institutions may as well, first as last, come to a thorough understanding of this unalterable fact. The nation must be governed for the common good of all people within its borders, and its rulers must seek honor and dignity in the welfare and prosperity of their subjects.

WARNING TO WATER WASTERS.

Owing to the persistent disregard of many people to the notice prescribing the hours for irrigation, the Superintendent of Water Works adds to that notice the rules relating to waste of water and irrigation and the penalty, the latter being deprivation of water until the payment of all costs and expenses. As payers of water rates who do not break the rules are deprived of an adequate supply for necessary purposes, through the waste of water in unlawful street sprinkling and irrigation, it is the intention of the bureau to begin making examples of offenders. It will not be hard to find examples, either, for nothing is more common along the line of certain streets, at all hours of the day, than Chinese and Portuguese shopkeepers making mud of the dust in front of their places with hose attached to the city water service. Then on many a cultivated lawn and garden plot, the gentle splash from a revolving sprinkler of very generous delivery is heard through the livelong night. It is time all classes of water wasters were brought to book, and they hardly deserve the full notice published "by authority" in to day's paper.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Reformers should now give up hair-splitting argumentation with those who are on their own side of the main question, and use their personal influence and eloquence in securing recruits for Reform.

The nomination of a goodly proportion of men having Hawaiian blood would be an assurance to the natives that the blessings of responsible government are meant to be conferred on their race equally with all other nationalities.

"Men," not measures, will be the word to-day. Men, who will dare to have minds of their own, and whom their fellow citizens can depend upon to sit down on nonsensical projects, and stand up shoulder to shoulder for measures of public utility.

Union is strength. There is no need to amplify this standard maxim. Let Reformers keep it steadily in view. The only basis of union until after the 12th of September is the new Constitution. Should that come forth triumphant, all sorts of reforms may start from its vital principles.

JUDGE FIELD, of the United States Circuit Court, has rendered a decision affirming that of the United States District Court at San Francisco, in the action of W. W. Neal against the Oceanic steamship Alameda. This decision maintains the constitutionality of the State law granting half pilotage fees to pilots when their services are declined by vessels entering the harbor of San Francisco. The plaintiff offered his services to the Alameda, and when declined he claimed of the master half pilotage. Its payment being refused, he sued for the amount, namely, \$83 78, the ultimate result being as stated above.

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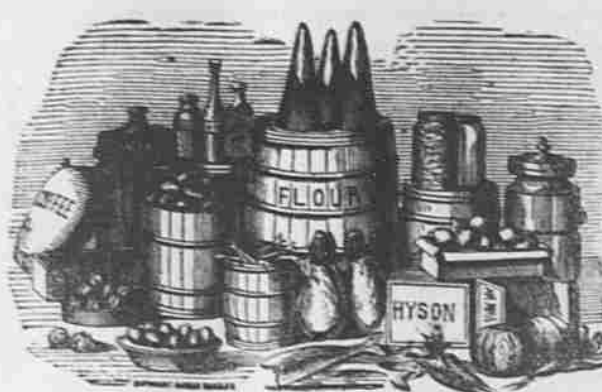
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Cases Sausage Meat, Cases Chipped Beef,
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Cases Roast Chicken, Cases Devilled Ham,
Cases R. & R. Potted Meats,
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Cases Soup & Boullie, 6-lb. Tins;

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Cases Dore's Olive Oil, Cases Queen Olives,
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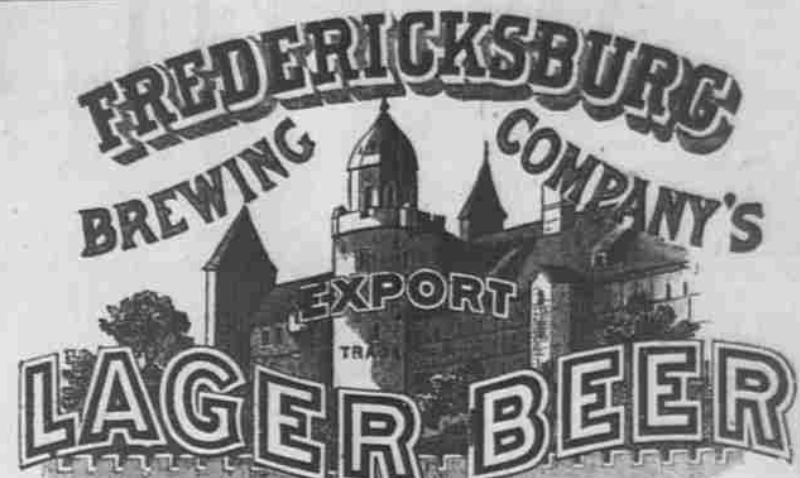
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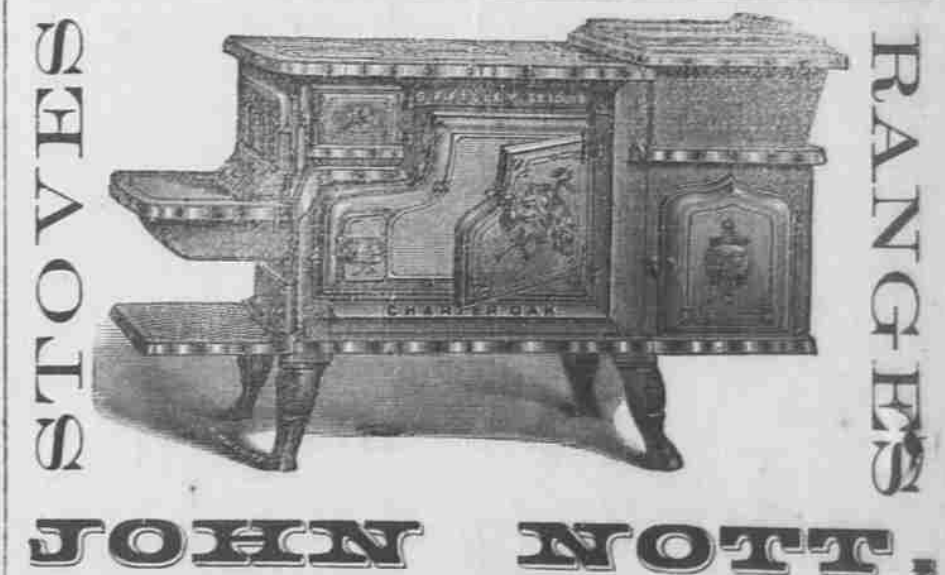
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